

of defeatism or pessimism. As we learned of over 100 Iraqi Battalions deployed with American forces, schools, basic services, agriculture, one is left with the sense that our folks in Baghdad have a plan and are working the plan 24/7. As one soldier told me, "defeat the enemy, rebuild the country and give it back to the Iraqis."

From our meetings with American leaders, we boarded our motorcade for meetings with the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Ministers of Defense and Interior, three of the most important leaders to the present and future of Iraq.

Prime Minister Jaafari greeted us in a formal setting and spent the first 15 minutes expressing the heartfelt condolences of the people of Iraq for the loss of life in Hurricane Katrina. He seemed most determined to convey that the insurgents engaged in violence do not represent the feelings of the people of Iraq. I asked him, "Who is the enemy?" and he replied with a litany referring to Beirut in 1983, 9-11, Sharm El Sheik, as all the work of "the terrorists." He actually seemed slightly indignant about the question . . . as though anyone, with any common sense, would see that the enemy in Iraq is simply "terrorists."

In our meetings with two government leaders, two moments stood out. The Minister of Interior, a studious, bearded man, said the greatest challenge he faced was "changing the culture of authoritarianism" that followed the repressive history of Iraq. As we walked out, he and I spoke further about this point and I was moved by his ambition for his people to live under a just system of law and not of men.

The other moment came when another Congressman asked the Minister of Defense, "what neighboring nation represents the greatest challenge to peace within Iraq?" to which he replied, "all of them" then added, "Kuwait is ok." It was an illuminating moment. I will never forget that this new Iraq is, with one exception, floating in a sea of authoritarian regimes with long histories of association with terror among their people and their governments.

Our helicopters set us down at ground zero for American forces in Baghdad: Camp Liberty-home of the legendary 3rd Infantry Division under the Command of General Mark O'Neill. As we learned earlier, most of the terrorist violence in Iraq is taking place in 4 of the 18 provinces . . . all 4 are in the area under the control of the 3rd ID. But Gen. O'Neill, a thick-necked warrior with the mind of a CEO, said, "Hey, it's what we do sir and we're glad to do it . . . we gotta stop these guys right here."

After getting an update on action and progress, we headed to dinner with the troops including Evansville native Sgt. Dave Newland. Dave is part of force protection for the 3rd ID and is approaching 20 years and retirement but, from what he told me, there is no place he'd rather be. When I asked about the mission, he replied with a smile, "We need to be here sir." We spoke of home, of his plans to move to Washington, Indiana and work for Crane. We spoke of the White Steamer, a diner in Washington, which turned out to be his Dad's favorite stop and one of mine. For that time we were not what we are doing (soldier/congressman), we were just a couple of Hoosiers swappin' stories from home. I told him everybody back home was praying and was proud and he said quietly, "I know that, sir."

As our C-130 took off from Baghdad airport, I thought of the men of the 3rd ID. I thought of the mission. And I thought of Sgt. Dave Newland. By God's grace does this nation still produces men like that.

Day two began at 3:30 a.m. as we headed for a day that would take us to four American

bases in some of the most violent sectors of the "Sunni Triangle." First stop, Camp Caldwell, near the Syrian border which is home to the 278th of Tennessee. We were the first delegation of elected officials to ever visit this base and the soldiers seemed delighted to see us...especially Tennessee Congressman Lincoln Davis. When Lincoln presented the command group with a coin bearing the US Capitol and spoke of the time when these Tennessee Vols would "be a 'comin home," there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

It being Labor Day, the base had a picnic going on for soldiers off duty, so we made our way over to throw horseshoes and listen to blue grass music. I asked one soldier after another, "What would Labor Day be without havin' a bunch of politicians show up to spoil your picnic?!" While the atmosphere was festive, when I would ask "How ya doin?" or "How's everybody back home holdin' up?" one soldier after another would pause and get that far away look that you would expect from any soldier on a distant frontier. This unit has lost 12 men but defeated the enemy in every engagement. Their effort in training Iraqis has been so successful that their unit actually will not be replaced by American forces when they head home in a few months. Iraqis will take over Camp Caldwell. Mission Accomplished Tennessee.

Our Blackhawk helicopters and their Apache helicopter gunship escorts lifted off from Camp Caldwell at midday for the American airbase at Balad, another region of recent and intense insurgent activity. As we approached the base by air, I took note of a large column of black smoke billowing from the far end of the base. As we learned upon our arrival, at approximately 6 a.m. the base came under mortar attack by insurgents. While some equipment was damaged, as we learned later in the command center from a videotape replay, the enemy fared much worse.

Using our battlefield technology and real time intelligence, our forces identified where the mortar was fired and tracked 10 insurgents evacuating the area. With incredible precision, a hellfire missile scored a direct hit on the enemy as the eerie infrared video replay showed. The professionalism of these forces, young men and women who had to make split second decisions to save American lives, left most of us speechless.

We spent lunch with American soldiers in Balad at a huge mess hall while our colleague from Hawaii, Rep. Ed Case, held his own townhall meeting with the 29th National Guard out of Hawaii.

Our last stop of the day was Ramadi, the new home of the Anderson, Indiana based 138th Signal Battalion under the command of Captain Keith Paris of Marion, Indiana. Capt. Paris and Sgt. Matt Wright of Muncie met us at the landing zone and escorted us to the long, sand colored two-story building that these Hoosiers will call home for the next year. Capt. Paris is a determined professional whose patriotism, love of family and God exude from every pore of his body. In a short briefing in his modest 12x12 headquarters office, he explained how A Company was actually supplying all the real time communications for the ongoing battle in Ramadi, a city of some 500,000, that is the provincial capital of the west and a Sunni elite dominated area. Their sandbag reinforced and camouflaged operations are smack dab in the middle of a bustling base filled with moving tanks, armored vehicles and soldiers . . . and they all depend with confidence on the 138th.

Sgt. Matt Wright of Muncie was an impressive young married man who actually told me that his wedding was to have occurred the day before I arrived, but when word came

of his deployment to Iraq, he and his fiancée decided to move it up nine months to accommodate their devotion to each other and our nation.

On the way to the mess hall, we encountered a Marine unit of armored vehicles headed out for maneuvers. As we reached up and shook hands with one soldier after another, I heard a voice from atop a tank yell, "Hey, aren't you gonna say hi to a fellow Hoosier?!" I looked up to see the broad smile of redheaded Cpl. Ty Cotton of Anderson, Indiana. He reached down and shook my hand as a voice cried out, "5 minutes!" . . . the time the unit would roll to its duties in Ramadi. I climbed up the side of the vehicle so we could talk over the din of engines and troop movements. He told me to say hello to his mom, Marla, back in Anderson and I told him I'd look in on her and tell her how good he looked. As the commanding officer yelled, "2 minutes!" I told him the folks back home were praying for him, proud and grateful for his service. As I climbed down the side of the combat vehicle, Ty smiled and said modestly, "Glad to do it, sir."

In the mess hall, the young men and women of the 138th joined me for dinner. I don't know what I expected to find among these troops but what I did find was good spirits, high morale, fitness and a matter of fact attitude about the work ahead. I asked about the war and many spoke of steady progress, even in Ramadi. One soldier who had already seen a year in theatre said, "It's gotten way better here in Ramadi from a year ago." They were confident Americans doing a hard job in a hard place, but no complaints.

Mostly they wanted to ask about home. We talked about Indiana's response to Hurricane Katrina. They were concerned about how the country was holding up after such a tragedy. In a war zone, working in 110-degree heat, sleeping behind sandbags and 8,000 miles from Mom, Dad, wife and kids . . . and they were worried about us. Where do we get men and women like these?

As our Blackhawk helicopters lifted off from Ramadi, I watched the sun set over this desert encampment on the front lines of the war on terror and I felt humbled by the men and women I saw, especially the Hoosiers of the 138th. I scribbled the names of the men and women I met and purposed to pray for them and their families until they return home . . . victorious, safe and sound.

And I felt more confident than ever that this war is just, the battle against terror is vital and the enemy can and will be defeated here and now. I believe that not because of the armor, the firepower or the technology that swept beneath me as we passed over one base after another. I believe that because I have looked into the eyes of the men and women fighting this war at every level, and their faith and courage has never and will never be defeated.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, in a continuing effort to combat the adverse effects that illegal immigration is having on the United States, I have introduced a concurrent resolution that expresses the sense of the Congress that the President should immediately and unequivocally call for the enforcement of existing immigration laws in order

to reduce the threat of a terrorist attack and to reduce the massive influx of illegal aliens into the United States.

□ 1845

I will summarize the text of that resolution without the whereas clauses.

A primary duty of the Federal Government is to secure the homeland and ensure the safety of the United States citizens and its lawful residents.

As a result of the attacks on this country on September 11, 2001, perpetrated by al Qaeda terrorists in the United States, the United States is engaged in a global war on terrorism.

Four years after those attacks, there is still a failure to secure the borders of the United States against illegal entry.

The failure to enforce immigration laws in the interior means that illegal aliens face little or no risk of apprehension or removal once they are in this country.

The Government of Mexico actively encourages illegal immigration into the United States by, among other things, publishing how-to books and urging State and local entities to accept the metricula consular as valid identification.

Granting amnesty to illegal aliens, or even proposing legislation or efforts for amnesty for illegal aliens, serves only to generate more illegal immigration.

If illegal aliens can enter and remain in the United States with impunity, so, too, can terrorists enter and remain while they plan, rehearse, and carry out their attacks.

The failure to control and to prevent illegal immigration into the United States increases the likelihood that terrorists will succeed in launching catastrophic or harmful attacks on United States soil.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should resolve four things.

First, that the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security should immediately use every tool available to them to secure the borders against illegal entry.

Second, the President should announce publicly that he will oppose any proposal to grant legal status or amnesty to illegal aliens and that he and the Secretary of Homeland Security will use every tool available to stop illegal immigration into the United States and to announce efforts for the removal of illegal aliens from the United States.

Third, the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security should seek the assistance of State and local law enforcement personnel in enforcing immigration laws, whether through formal agreements to cooperate or through the elimination of sanctuary policies.

Fourth, the President and the Secretary of State should warn Mexico that any further action it takes to encourage illegal immigration to the United States will be viewed as interference with our domestic laws, in vio-

lation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by reemphasizing how important it is for the position of this body and this government to say “no” to illegal immigration, to say “no” to amnesty. When amnesty occurs or is expected to occur, the floodgates are wider and more open for illegal aliens and those who might harm this country. Our future will be much safer and more secure if we will secure our borders and stop illegal immigration and give a resounding “no” to any amnesty policy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2116

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 437, ESTABLISHING THE SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-221) on the resolution (H. Res. 439) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 437) to establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-222) on the resolution (H. Res. 440) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 889) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates

he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the following titles:

June 29, 2005:

H.R. 483: An Act to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the “Reynaldo G. Garza and Filemon B. Vela United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 1812. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration grant program to provide patient navigator services to reduce barriers and improve health care outcomes, and for other purposes.

July 1, 2005:

H.R. 3021. An Act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3104. An Act to provide an extension of highway; highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

July 12, 2005:

H.R. 120. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the “Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building”.

H.R. 289. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the “Sergeant First Class John Marshall Post Office Building”.

H.R. 324. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as the “Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building”.

H.R. 504. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the “Ray Charles Post Office Building”.

H.R. 627. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located: at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the “Linda White-Epps Post Office”.

H.R. 1072. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the “Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1082. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Illinois Avenue in Vinita, Oklahoma, as the “Francis C. Goodpaster Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1236. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 750. 4th Street in Sparks, Nevada, as the “Mayor Tony Armstrong Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 1460. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the “Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1524. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the “Ed Eilert Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1542. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 695 Pleasant Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts, as the “Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2326. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office”.

July 20, 2005:

H.R. 3332. An Act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier